MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

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PUBLISHING BOOKS ON AMAZON

Midwest Computer Genealogists will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 20 in Bromwell Lounge at Brookdale Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Missouri. Our speaker will be Delmar (Del) Sherwood, who has served as the Webmaster for the Foxwood residents' website, www.foxwoodsprings.org, since December, 1999. Our site went online in March, 2000 and will celebrate its 20th anniversary in March of next year.Del will discuss "Publishing Books on Amazon" and will discuss some of his family's genealogical research.

Del and Beverly Sherwood grew up in Canton, Illinois near Peoria. He worked for an insurance company for many years in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. The Sherwoods met Foxwood residents, Dan and Dagmar Merrick, in Milwaukee, where Dan was the pastor in the church which Del and Bev attended. There friendship has continued through many years and, at times, many miles of separation. Dan Merrick introduced our Computer Club to Del when we needed a webmaster to develop and manage our residents' web site. Our Website Committee met weekly for many months and then monthly to create this site. Del is an excellent Webmaster and has dedicated many hours to this project, for which we are very grateful.

Del's wife, Beverly, has participated for many years in a writer's group. The participants in this group share their writing and provide critical feedback for other members of the group. Beverly, an avid Chicago Cubs fan, has also written some material about her favorite team.

Del published the current book, *Zayilla*, a paper back at present, on Amazon on May 25, 2019. He also plans to publish the book in digital form.

"This story begins in the final years of the Great Depression. Zayilla lives in a shack with her grandmother, Rose, who ignores the girl's existence. Also in the three room shack is the primary occupant, Grandmam, Zayilla's great grandmother. As Zayilla starts school, she is unaware of hygiene, proper clothing, or her lack of social skills, but she yearns to have parents. Who are her mother and father? Where are they?" (www.amazon.com)

Del says, "My wife, Beverly, and I have been married for 68 years. She is the author of *Zayilla*, a novel available on Amazon. Together, we cherish the memories of our many plane and automobile trips to cities and National Parks in the United States and Canada. For 25 years, we went downtown for Kansas City Symphony concerts, live Opera, and Theater. Our advice to our kids is: "do what you can while you can. If a person is still able to do some interesting things, it's okay to be old." Other than problems with balance, my health is not a major concern.

Most days I turn on my computer as soon as I finish morning rituals. At one time, I created and maintained and updated 25 to 30 websites, but now I'm down to seven. Other than websites, I help people with computer problems by remotely connecting my computer to their computers, using the Internet. Some days, I get no calls for help, but other days, I am on the phone most of my waking hours. It was a challenge to get Bev's book published on Amazon for sale world-wide".

As family researchers, we are all anxious to find the best ways to preserve the results of our investigation. Data bases of family births, marriages, deaths, are valuable tools for preserving the basic information, but we also need to preserve our family research in an accessible format that will inspire our current family members and future generations to become involved in this work and to commit themselves to its continuation and preservation for the benefit of

our families at present and for many years in the future. Join us on July 20 to see how we might publish our family histories conveniently and economically. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

I am writing about Charles McDaniel again. In 2012, I introduced you to the three Charles McDaniels that were related to my wife, Dorothy (Newcomb) Morse. In September, 2018, I updated some wonderful news, but, I now have some new news and some corrections to make.

The first Charles J. McDaniel was reportedly born on March 10, 1893 in Miller County, Missouri. But, according to his WWI registration card in Miller County, his birth date is shown as March 10, 1894. It is still true that he joined the army, was shipped to France, and was killed on July 14, 1918. Charles had an older brother, James, Dorothy's grandfather.

James married Lillie Ethel Burke on August 11, 1913 in Miller County. Their third child was named Charles Hobert McDaniel. According to records we had been given, his birth date was December 6, 1918. According to the 1920 and 1930 U.S. Census reports, that date looked correct. However, on his Bates County, Missouri, World War II registration card, he lists his birth date as December 6, 1917. This is the official birth date on all of his military and death records.

Charles served as a medic in WWII from 1940 to 1945. He reentered the army in 1948. He was shipped to Japan in 1949. His wife, Gladys, and two sons, Charles, Jr. and Larry, also went to Japan. Most of the married soldiers families were in Japan. The soldiers were given breaks to go from Korea to Japan for a few days. Charles was in the battle of Unsan in North Korea when he was declared MIA on November 2, 1950. After the war ended, he was declared dead.

In the summer of 2018, there were 55 skeletal bodies returned to the United States from North Korea. One body had a dogtag with it. That dogtag belonged to Charles Hobert McDaniel. His two sons, Charles Jr. and Larry went to Washington D.C., where they were presented the dogtag and several other medals belonging to their father. The two boys were only 3 and 2 in 1950 when their father died. Charles Jr. does remember the trip back to Hawaii following his father's report of being MIA. The sons were interviewed by many TV stations during their time in Washington D.C. They then were sent to Hawaii, where all of the 55 bodies were sent for positive identification. The body of Charles Hobert McDaniel was positively identified and the sons were given some time alone with the body. The family held a memorial service on October 27, 2018 in Greenwood, Indiana. The sister of Charles Hobert McDaniel, Wilma Jean, was able to attend the service. She was driven to the service from Adrian, Missouri by her two daughters. Also Gladys, Charles's wife, was in attendance, along with her two sons. However, she could not remember the occasion the next day.

As reported in the MCG Newsletter of June, 2019, I had the privilege of going to Adrian on May 27, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. At their Veterans' Memorial, Charles H. McDaniel, Jr. spoke to those gathered there. During the day, I got to see and hold the dogtag. I was also shown a book that showed the identification of Charles Hobert McDaniel. In the book, it was reported that his body was positively identified by the DNA given by Dorothy J. Morse. Dorothy was a niece of Charles McDaniel. About the year 2000, she was asked to give a DNA sample. The government, in an effort to identify any bones of soldiers that they found that had been listed as MIA, were trying to find female relatives of those soldiers. When someone arrived at our house, she answered some questions, filled out some forms, and gave a blood DNA sample. Dorothy, who died January 3, 2019, would have been proud and thankful that her DNA sample helped to identify her mother's brother.

I am writing this article to show that we do not always have the correct information on our ancestors' genealogical records. We must always try to make sure all records are correct.

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PUBLISHING FAMILY BOOKS

Marjorie Slavens

My mother, Mildred Welty Slavens (1910-2008), was designated the "family historian" in the early '70s by her three younger sisters. They told her that, since she was the oldest of five children, it was her responsibility to research the family records and preserve the data. She knew very little about her

ancestors when she began this project. She knew three of her grandparents, her father's mother, Catharine Mary Eppright Welty (1848-1928), and her mother's father and step mother, Charles Merlin Kerr (1863-1962) and Millie Bain Richardson Kerr 1872-1959. Catharine Welty lived on a farm 8 miles west of Jasper, Jasper County, Missouri, where her 8 children grew up, and she and her husband, Henry Welty (1837-1911) are buried in the Nashville, Barton County, Missouri Cemetery with their daughters, Mary and Nettie Welty Derr. Mother, who grew up in Kansas City Kansas, knew the Kerrs very well; she visited them at their home in Asbury, Jasper County, Missouri during the summer, and it was there that she met my father, Ralph Westmeier Slavens, (1907-1983) who was living with his grandmother, Laura Hesler Slavens Hesler, in Asbury in the summer of 1930. Mother was born in Kansas City, Missouri 6 months before her grandfather, Henry Welty, died in June, 2011. He traveled from the Soldiers' Home in Leavenworth, Kansas to Kansas City, Missouri to see her, but her parents had taken her to see the Kerrs in Asbury, and he never saw her.

Mother regretted that she had not asked her parents and grandparents about more of the family history, but she was determined to find the answers through her family research. The Kerrs talked a great deal about some of their experiences in Medoc and Asbury, Missouri, but they did not talk much about their ancestors. Mother knew about the Eppright name but nothing about her grandmother's parents and brothers and sisters. She knew Henry Welty came from Ohio, but she did not know in what county or anything about his parents and brothers and sisters when she began her research. She had a Kerr family Bible, in which Charles' father, John Kerr, had written the names and dates of his three wives and 17 children, but she knew almost nothing about any of these people.

When she began her research, the resources and data were much more difficult to find, and Mother was determined to find this information and to preserve it. She did most of her early research at the St. Louis Public Library and here at the Mid-Continent Library when she visited this area. We made many trips to libraries, court houses, cemeteries, genealogical societies, etc. in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and she found some of her information during several visits to the DAR Library in Washington D. C.

She published her first two books in 1981. Her first edition of the *Peter Welty Family History,* which had about 100 pages on the Weltys, and had two pages at the end of the book on the Eppright family of her grandmother. Her second book had about 50 pages on the Kerr family with two pages on the family of her maternal grandmother, Elzina H. Heape (1869-1895), who died in New Mexico. She typed these books on the manual Royal typewriter my parents gave me when I graduated from high school in 1954. This typewriter traveled with me to college in Columbia, Missouri, Tallahassee, Florida, and to my first college teaching job in Oxford, Ohio. I purchased an electric typewriter when I began working on my Ph.D., and Mother typed my dissertation of 326 pages on that typewriter. I took it to Rockford, Illinois for my second teaching job, and she inherited the Royal typewriter, a much more difficult task than using computers and online publishing. We had about 30 copies of each book duplicated and bound with hard covers. We assembled the books but did not physically publish them. I donated copies of these books to the York County, Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, the St. Louis Public Library, where she had worked doing this research, and the Mid-Continent Library. Members of the family received them by mail.

The second edition of the Peter Welty Family book had about 200 pages. Mother recorded the material, and I typed it on my first computer, an Apple IIE computer, but the print was really not very good. The printing department at the college where I taught collated it and bound it. Most of the copies were acceptable, but some books had pages that were upside down, and we could not distribute them.

The third edition of the Welty book, now more than 300 pages, and first editions of books on the Epprights, the second edition of the Kerrs, and the first editions of the Crafords of Ohio and Illinois, the family of Charles Merlin Kerr's mother, Elizabeth

Crawford Branin Kerr, and the Heapes of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Texas, and Missouri were published in the 1990s. By that time, we used a Windows computer with a lazer printer, and we were able to find our own books. In Raymore, the books we produced were duplicated by the UPS store, which did a wonderful job. Pictures in these later books were placed on pages for duplication. She also publish the *Welty Family Letters,* a short book of pictures and letters from the 1860-1890 period.

How much easier and better are the books one can now publish with better printers and the insertion of pictures directly in the text. Beginning in the 1990s, we used clear plastic covers with comb binding. All of the members of our family have their own copies of the books.

Because Mother started researching online in 1996 with a computer I gave her for her 86th birthday, she was able to gather more information from home.She also provided a great deal of information and sold some books for the cost of producing them throughout the country to people that she was never able to meet but met online. We contributed the various editions to different libraries, which do not have the funds to purchase such family books but are always very glad to receive them for the use of their visitors who are researching these families. We were able to create books on the Adams, Cocghnower, Miller, Brumbaugh, Tefertiller, Slavens, Hesler, Westmeier, and Gilman families, and some smaller books on related families, but we have not published them yet.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Fourth of July is a major holiday in the United States to celebrate the day in 1776 that the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress.The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress had voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2, but it was not declared until July 4.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the thirteen colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule.After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife, Abigail: “The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more” Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress. (www.wikipedia.com)

Note: Join us on Saturday, August 17, when Julia Morse will present “Finding Your Ancestors’ Stories Free Online”.

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